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SRI G. RAMA RAO :—" May I know whether the petitioners are related to the Hon. Minister? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" I have no relatives in that district."

SRI ALLURI VENKATARAMARAJU :—" అయ్యా, మేజరు పంచాయతీ ఎన్నికలకు ఎంతో దీర్ఘకాలం ఆలస్యమైన విషయం ప్రభుత్వం గుర్తించింది. ఉదాహరణకు తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లా రాలిగ్రామ పంచాయతీ విషయం కూడా ఇందులో ఉంది? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" There are some major panchayats in every district. Elections to major panchayats were conducted by secret ballot and they were taken up only at a late stage."

SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" క్రొత్త పంచాయతీలకు ఎప్పుడు ఎన్నికలు జరుపుతారండి? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" That is under the consideration of the Government."

Opening of new elementary schools.

* 973 *Q.*—SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have laid down any conditions to be satisfied for the opening of a Board Elementary School in any village in general and if so, what they are; and

(*b*) whether there is any restriction saying that no such school can be opened in villages with less than 500 population?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) The conditions laid down for the opening and recognition of aided elementary schools are followed in regard to Board Elementary Schools also. These conditions are given in the rules for the grant of recognition and aid to elementary schools under private managements. A copy of the rules is available in the Library of the Secretariat of the Madras Legislature for reference.

" (*b*) No. The policy of the Government is to open schools with a population of 500 and above in the first instance. Opening of schools in places with a population of less than 500 is also considered, provided there are sufficient number of school-age children in the village and provided further that there are no schools too close by to which they can conveniently go."

SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI :—" Due to the insistence on the provision of a pukka building by the authorities, many villages are denied the facility of a school. Will the Government be pleased to relax this condition? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" With regard to elementary schools, a very liberal policy is followed. As a matter of fact, about three days ago I declared open a small thatched shed for an elementary school."

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SRI V. RAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the fact that the district boards made indiscriminate and innumerable transfers of teachers, both elementary and secondary, on the eve of their leaving the office? Will the Government reconsider this problem to set things right?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" This is a totally different question, Sir."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" The Parliamentary Secretary to the Hon. Minister for Finance is reported to have said, according to a recent press report, that the Government are contemplating the appointment of Graduates as headmasters of elementary schools. May I know whether there is any such proposal under contemplation and, if so, when it will be implemented?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" We are thinking of ways and means for improving the quality of elementary education. Therefore we want to consider the proposition of improving the quality of teachers."

SRI S. NARAYANAPPA :—" In view of the fact that many District Educational Officers have refused recognition for schools in villages in which there is a population of 500 and below, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to send instructions about the policy stated on the floor of this House?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir, a liberal policy is followed."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the inordinate delay in the Education Department in implementing the recommendations of the district board in regard to opening of schools? The Chingleput District Board recommended the opening of a school in Labbakandigai village more than a year ago and yet no school has been opened so far."

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" I will look into that particular matter. But generally, encouragement is given in every respect."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" Why is there so much delay from the side of the Government in raising elementary schools to higher elementary schools?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" I cannot accept the statement that there is delay in every case or generally."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware, Sir, that though pukka buildings and the requisite number of children are there, the department is painfully slow to appoint teachers even after a period of three or four years?" 9-30 a.m.

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" We do not appoint teachers direct to the elementary schools, Sir."

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Sri M. VEERABHADRAM :—" Sir, is there any rule prohibiting the opening of a school within one mile of another school, which is there already, even though the two schools may be situated in two separate villages?"

The Hon. Dr. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" A certain amount of planning is necessary whenever we give permission for starting new schools. It is certainly necessary to lay down the minimum distance between one school and another in order to avoid competition. But every encouragement is given taking into consideration the area, its accessibility and the number of children likely to be required for the school."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Question time is over. The answers to the rest of the questions will be printed in the proceedings."

Alleged murder of Sri Eganathan, a Harijan lad.

* 974 *Q.*—Sri A. RATHINAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received representations from various Harijan organizations of India and the father of one Eganathan, a murdered Harijan lad, about the inaction of the police in the matter of investigation into the murder of the said Eganathan; and

(*b*) whether the Government have taken any action on the representations made to them?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Representations regarding the alleged murder of the Harijan lad Eganathan and the inaction of the police in the matter were received by the Government from Sri N. S. Karuppiah, father of Eganathan, from Sri S. Raman, brother of Sri N. S. Karuppiah and from the General Secretary, Pan Malayan Adi-Dravida Federation, Singapore.

" (*b*) Yes; an enquiry by the C.I.D. was ordered by the Government. The enquiry showed that there was no evidence to conclude definitely that the deceased had been murdered. There was also nothing to show that the police had failed in their duty."

Purchase of Gosthani and Meghadrigadda water-works in Visakhapatnam by Government.

* 975 *Q.*—Sri M. VEERABHADRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the year 1946–47 the Military Department offered the Gosthani and Meghadrigadda water-works in Visakhapatnam to the Government for sale;

(*b*) if so, at what rate they were offered; and

(*c*) what was the reply given to them by the Government?